

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
December 17, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith
Mayor Graham

Also Present: Sharon Addison, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Jim Mills, Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Erin Gardner, Celia Cook, Beth Morris, Peter Keenan, Amy Pastuf, Chief Comins, Deputy Chief Randall, Barbara Wheeler, Brian Phelps

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Acceptance of Gift of Use of Vehicle, F.X. Caprara Car Companies
- Resolution No. 3 - Waiving Building Permit Fees for the Woolworth Building Redevelopment Project
- Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing the Sale of the Iron Block/Woodruff II Site
- Resolution No. 5 - Supporting JCIDA Incentives for the Woolworth Redevelopment Project
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Supplemental Appropriation No. 2 For Fiscal Year 2012-13 for Various Accounts
- Resolution No. 7 - Accepting Waterline Easement and Utility Easement Between the City Of Watertown and Thousand Islands Hospitality, LLC
- Resolution No. 8 - Establishing 2013 County Tax Rate
- Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §310-34, Accessory Uses in Residence Districts
- Property Auction
- Jefferson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence. Mayor Graham asked that everyone extend its condolences and prayers to the community of Newtown, Connecticut during this time of tragedy and loss.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 3, 2012 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

PRESENTATIONS

Parks and Recreation Reservation Software – Vermont Systems – Brian Hatch

Mr. Hatch provided an overview of what this software offers stressing that it supplies a tracking system for all the financials associated with the facility reservations. He reviewed the next step of the installation of a website that allows customers from home to view the activities available as well as register on-line using payments by credit card. He indicated that customers will access this website through a link on the City's website.

Council Member Smith asked if someone could reserve the use of a field and pay a non-refundable deposit.

Mr. Hatch explained that rules could be set to require that a deposit be made with the reservation. He further explained that field or facility availability would be available on-line.

Council Member Burns asked if the system would be interfaced with KVS so that deposits are reflected in KVS.

Mr. Hatch stated that the goal is to have all the money flow through RecTrac into KVS and mentioned that RecTrac has an extensive reporting system.

In response to Council Member Burns' inquiry, **Erin Gardner**, Parks and Recreation Superintendent said that activity changes due to weather could be posted on the website through the software. She also stated that an automatic answering system for the phones is already in place.

Mr. Hatch added that changes to the schedule due to the weather could be posted on the website as well as sent to anyone registered for the program through email or by text message.

Council Member Butler asked how the software can be used from a marketing standpoint.

Mr. Hatch explained that a lot of statistical information is gathered such as zip codes, ages and genders of users which can then be used to send communications through a database. In regards to cost, he clarified that there is an initial software cost then an annual maintenance fee which includes technical support and additional training. He noted that the IT staff should be able to handle most problems but on-site visits are available upon request or he can access the software remotely to assist with problems.

Mayor Graham asked if there is a big learning curve for the public to get used to using the on-line system.

Mr. Hatch said that links are going to be located on the existing website and mentioned doing a mailing to the existing customer list. He stated that there is a learning curve but the use of it usually takes off pretty fast.

In terms of other municipalities using this product, Mr. Hatch indicated that there are no other ones in this area using it but he has customers in New Jersey, Illinois, North Dakota and Vermont. He suggested using this software as an on-line brochure for the department and put images of all the facilities and activities available. He noted that links could be added for such things as the Privateers schedule.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from J Sanchez, The Fireball Run thanking Council for helping to make the 2012 production such a great success in Watertown, New York.

A letter was received from Kathryn Franjola, 533 Mundy Street thanking Council for demolishing the apartment house on the corner of Mundy and Lynde St and requesting that the land be considered for a park area.

Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Judge Harberson, 729 Nellis Street addressed the chair concerning tax exemptions and PILOTs stating that they increase the tax burden on the rest of the tax payers especially during this economy. He stated that PILOTs take properties off the tax roll for a number of years and wondered if all the properties are put back on the tax roll at the completion of the PILOT. He asked if the City Assessor and City Comptroller could provide Council with the number of properties that are off the tax roll. He advised Council to access whether the City can afford to provide tax exemptions and noted that taxes will continue to go up for all the tax payers in order to pay the costs of running the City. He stressed that Council is going to need to increase the Police Force because the population is growing and the problems and violence are worse than they were in the past which will increase costs as well.

Troy Walts, 380 Brainard Street addressed the chair concerning the recent communications from Jefferson County Public Health and North Country Children's Clinic regarding the fluoridation of water. He said that these letters did not cite any specific studies and he would like to see their research in order to publicly debate them. He commented that he would like to see a bag of Fluoride at the next meeting to so that the chemical compound can be viewed

because it is not a natural element and is not a nutrient. He mentioned that there is a growing movement of opposition to the fluoridation of water.

Jeff Ostrom, 894 South Massey Street addressed the chair asking Council to look at the world view verses the domestic view and indicated that the amount of people that adjusts water by fluoridation in United States is half the total number of people of the world.

Donald Hassig, Cancer Action NY read from the Jefferson County Public Health letter and stated his studies prove that the Public Health studies are wrong. He noted that he has done his research and it shows that the water should not be fluoridated. He asked that the specific ways that it is safe be shown.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds in the cities of this state shall be appointed by the common councils of such cities, and

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds shall hold the term of two years, and

WHEREAS Any person who resides in or maintains an office or other place of business in any such city and who resides in the county in which said city is situated shall be eligible to appointment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following individuals are hereby appointed Commissioner of Deeds for the term expiring December 31, 2014.

Non-City Employees

Ellen E. Burns
Lori A. Nevers
Christine M. Wells
Melissa Snyder
Tina Buzzell

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Acceptance of Gift of Use of Vehicle, F.X. Caprara Car Companies

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS F.X. Caprara Car Companies has offered to provide the City of Watertown with a 2012 Dodge Ram 4x4 truck for use as a DARE vehicle by the Watertown Police Department, and

WHEREAS the Dodge Ram would be given to the City for its use for a term of approximately nine months, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Police Department is in need of a new vehicle for the DARE Program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts this gift of use of a 2012 Dodge Ram 4x4 truck from F.X. Caprara Car Companies.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 - Waiving Building Permit Fees for the Woolworth Building Redevelopment Project

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the Woolworth Building at 11 Public Square is currently vacant and unproductive, and

WHEREAS the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building is an important component of the City of Watertown's Downtown Revitalization efforts, and

WHEREAS a joint venture of David Gallo of Georgica Green Ventures LLC and Erich Seber of White Birch Enterprise LLC is proposing to renovate the Woolworth Building into 11,100 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 50 units of housing on the upper floors, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to take actions necessary to assist the proposed project in becoming a reality, and

WHEREAS one such action is the waiving of Building Permit Fees **by 75% (or to 25% of the regular fee),**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City Council hereby waives **75% of the** Building Permit Fees for the Woolworth Building Redevelopment Project proposed by David Gallo and Erich Seber.

Seconded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Smith expressed concern over waiving all the fees for the building permit even though he supports the redevelopment of the Woolworth building. He indicated that Council has to be cautious with waiving fees. He

suggested amending the resolution so that the developers pay a portion of the fees.

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to amend the foregoing resolution to state that the City will waive 75% of the Building Permit Fees . Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

David Gallo, Georgica Green Ventures LLC indicated that he is agreeable to the amended version of the resolution.

Council Member Burns questioned the dollar amount of the building fees.

Ken Mix, Planning Coordinator estimated that the fees could be \$16,000 - \$18,000.

Council Member Butler stated that he supports this and that it shows some good will on the part of the developers.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing motion and carried with all voting yea except Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham voting nay.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing the Sale of the Iron Block/Woodruff II Site

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS the Woolworth Building at 11 Public Square is currently vacant and unproductive, and

WHEREAS the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building is an important component of the City of Watertown's downtown revitalization efforts, and

WHEREAS a joint venture of David Gallo of Georgica Green Ventures LLC and Erich Seber of White Birch Enterprise LLC is proposing to renovate the Woolworth Building into 11,100 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 50 units of housing on the upper floors, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to take actions necessary to assist the proposed project in becoming a reality, and

WHEREAS the developer has identified the need for parking spaces dedicated to the project, and

WHEREAS there is available nearby land owned by the City of Watertown, known as the Iron Block/Woodruff II Site, including 29 Public Square, 31 Public Square, 35-39 Public Square

and a portion of 41 Public Square, and

WHEREAS said real property has never been assigned a public purpose by the City Council,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that pursuant to §23(b) of the General City Law, §247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1 of 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the Ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the City Council on June 6, 1977, that the offer of \$1.00 submitted by David Gallo and Erich Seber for **an unconditional option to the purchase** Parcels No. 7-01-116, 7-01-114, 7-01-113 and the non-shaded portion of 7-01-112.001 as shown on Exhibit A, attached herewith, **within three years of the date of this resolution for the purchase price of \$1.00**, is a fair and reasonable offer and is hereby accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **option may not be exercised and the** sale/transfer shall not take place until all financing for the Woolworth Redevelopment Project is in place, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deed issued by the City shall contain provisions that the property must be re-transferred to the City if the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building is not completed within three years of the date of the deed and that the property may not be re-sold to any entity other than the City of Watertown, unless the City Council approves the sale. In the event of re-conveyance to the City, the consideration will be \$1.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to **sign the option of behalf of the City and to ultimately** execute a Quit Claim Deed of said property, in accordance with the above conditions, to David Gallo and Erich Seber, or their designee for receipt of the title authorized hereby, upon receipt of the above-mentioned **sums** of money in cash only to the City Comptroller.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Mix explained the important points of the resolution highlighting the language that is meant to protect the City.

Council Member Butler commented on his concerns regarding giving away a piece of property if it is not used for its intended use.

Attorney Slye confirmed that the language in the resolution protects the City for this and asked Mr. Gallo if there would be a mortgage on this property.

Mr. Gallo clarified that this site would only be developed in connection with the building and he would not specifically mortgage this site but it would be encompassed in the entire project.

Attorney Slye stated that the goal is for the City to be in the position to get the property back in

case the project falls through.

Mr. Seber clarified that if the deal closes then the property is tied to the project and cannot go back to the City.

Mr. Gallo explained that there would be one closing so that it all happens simultaneously and if it does not close then there would be no need for the land. In regards to a timeframe for the closing, he stated that the tax credit grant is due January 8th and it is expected to have a three to four months review period then a few months for documentation preparation. He pointed out that if they are not approved then he would like to apply for the grant a second time.

Attorney Slye suggested amending the resolution to consider an option to buy the property.

In regards to Council Member Butler's inquiry, Mr. Gallo stated that collateral would come from the building and not the parking lot.

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to table the foregoing resolution so that Attorney Syle could make the necessary changes to the resolution in order to include an option to purchase the property. Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to take from the table the foregoing resolution. Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to amend the foregoing resolution as indicated above. Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Supporting JCIDA Incentives for the Woolworth Redevelopment Project

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the Woolworth Building at 11 Public Square is currently vacant and unproductive, and

WHEREAS the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building is an important component of the City of Watertown's downtown revitalization efforts, and

WHEREAS a joint venture of David Gallo of Georgica Green Ventures LLC and Erich Seber of White Birch Enterprise LLC is proposing to renovate the Woolworth Building into 11,100 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 50 units of housing on the upper

floors, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to take actions necessary to assist the proposed project in becoming a reality, and

WHEREAS the developer is applying for incentives through the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council agrees that Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency incentives including sales tax, property tax and mortgage tax exemptions should be provided for the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council is willing to accept a reasonable Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) agreement for property taxes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for purposes of this resolution, the term “reasonable” shall mean a term no longer than 15 years and an assessed value of no less than its assessment as of April 1, 2013, together with inflation-adjusted cumulative increases in years five and ten of the PILOT, tied to the greater of CPI or actual rent increases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to send a letter to the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency stating the City Council’s concurrence with the incentives as stated above.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler indicated that he is concerned with the wording of “reasonable” PILOT and suggested language to define what would be an “unreasonable” PILOT.

Mayor Graham agreed that the term “reasonable” is subject to interpretation but reminded Council that a PILOT would need to be approved by the three taxing jurisdictions.

Mr. Gallo clarified that he would like the term of the PILOT to be 15 years. He mentioned that he had spoken to the City Assessor and the current taxes are \$8,000 so that would be the minimum amount paid with possible increases.

Brian Phelps, City Assessor stated that the current assessment is over \$500,000 but after reviewing the building’s current condition, he advised that the assessed value should be decreased because it is currently over assessed.

Council Member Smith reiterated that the resolution does not contain any parameters to the PILOT.

Attorney Slye suggested new language to insert into the resolution.

Motion was made by Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham to amend the foregoing resolution as indicated above. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

In response to Mayor Graham's question, Mr. Gallo reviewed the timeframe for the application and the notification process again and mentioned that he hoped to close within the third quarter of 2013. In addition, he asked the mayor for assistance in obtaining a letter of support from the Regional Council.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving Supplemental Appropriation No. 2 For Fiscal Year 2012-13 for Various Accounts

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS the City Council desires to continue having the library open on Sundays through the end of the fiscal year and,

WHEREAS the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget did not include funding to be open these additional hours and,

WHEREAS the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Library Fund included funding in the amount of \$25,000 to install parking lot steps that City Council wishes to delay to fund the costs of being open on Sundays,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that the total amount of \$13,750 is hereby transferred and appropriated from and to the following accounts of the listed funds for FY 2012-13:

L 7410.0140	Temporary	\$ 5,500
L.7410.0150	Overtime	5,500
L.7410.0430	Contracted Services	(13,750)
L.7410.0810	NYS Retirement	1,900
L 7410.0830	Social Security	850
Total		<u>\$ -</u>

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham stated that he supports Sunday hours for the library but would also like the stairs put in place at some point for safety reasons.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 7 - Accepting Waterline Easement and Utility Easement Between the City Of Watertown and Thousand Islands Hospitality, LLC

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS Thousand Islands Hospitality LLC (the “Grantor”) is the record owner of real property located in the City of Watertown near the intersection of Commerce Park Drive and Gaffney Drive Extension and known as tax parcel #8-40-109 (the “Property”), and

WHEREAS the Grantor received site plan approval for development of the Property including waterline/water system and storm water/storm sewer system improvements (the “Improvements”) to be constructed to the reasonable requirements of the City and conveyed to the City as a condition of site plan approval, and

WHEREAS the Grantor has constructed/preformed such Improvements on the Property to the reasonable satisfaction of the City and is now prepared to convey such Improvements with easements to the City, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown deems it appropriate and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to accept the Waterline Easement, as specifically described in Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown deems it appropriate and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to accept the Utility Easement, as specifically described in Exhibit B, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown deems it appropriate and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to accept the infrastructure contained within the Waterline Easement and Utility Easement as specifically described in a Bill of Sale attached as Exhibit C,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the Waterline Easement as described in Exhibit A, as attached hereto, and the Utility Easement as described in Exhibit B, as attached hereto, and the infrastructure as described in Exhibit C, as attached hereto, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sharon Addison, City Manager, is authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to effect the conveyance of said Waterline Easement, Utility Easement, and Improvements to the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.
Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 8 - Establishing 2013 County Tax Rate

Introduced by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated December 11, 2012, and in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 9 Section 904 has certified to the City that the contribution of the City of Watertown to the taxes of the County of Jefferson for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2013 is \$7,412,123.07, and

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated November 14, 2012, and in accordance with New York State Environmental Conservation Law Section 15-2123 subdivision 6, has directed the City to levy and collect the unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District 2012 Annual Assessment for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council shall and hereby does levy the said unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District 2011 Annual Assessment for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council shall and hereby does levy the said aggregate amount of taxes of \$7,412,123.07 and unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District 2012 Annual Assessment for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City does hereby levy a total fee of \$7,415,894.41 to be collected at a rate of \$7.215725 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, of which County tax levy is \$7,389,801.31 and includes \$22,321.96 in omitted taxes.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham voting nay.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §310-34, Accessory Uses in Residence Districts

Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith

WHEREAS it has been proposed to amend the Code of the City of Watertown, New York, so that the taking of not more than four non-transient roomers is no longer listed as an allowed accessory use in Residential Districts, and

WHEREAS the City Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment to §310-34 of the Code of the City of Watertown at its January 8, 2013 meeting and made its recommendation on adoption, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m, and

WHEREAS a Public Hearing was held on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment on February 4, 2013 after due Public Notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act that there will not be any significant environmental impacts caused by the adoption of this Ordinance, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Watertown to make the following change to Chapter 310 of the City Code,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that §310-34.B.(7) that reads “the taking of not more than four non-transient roomers, provided that no sign is displayed” is hereby deleted from the Code of the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Amendment to the City Code shall take effect as soon as published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, New York, or printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to send the foregoing ordinance to the Planning Board for recommendations. Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

DISCUSSIONS

Property Auction

A memo regarding the upcoming property auction was available for Council to review.

Jefferson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Jefferson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was available for Council's review.

Sales Tax Revenue – November 2012

Mayor Graham indicated that the Sales Tax Report shows that the figures are holding firm.

Fluoridation of Water

Mayor Graham commented that this is a kind of mass medication directed towards the demographics that do not take care of themselves. He hoped to have continued dialogue regarding this.

In speaking to dentists, Council Member Macaluso remarked that dentists are programmed to support fluoride in the water and mentioned that there needs to be opposing views on the committee that Mr. Sligar is forming.

Council Member Butler said that his research revealed that this is a mute topic that will be debated on and on. He told Council that the Center for Disease Control support it and argued that if dentists did not support it then they would make more money so he feels dentists support it for the health of their patients. He said there is plenty of information on both sides of this topic to indicate that this debate will continue. He agreed with Mr. Sligar's report in that it is important to determine if there is a problem in Watertown and said that area dentists state there is little fluorosis in the City.

Council Member Smith advised that the opposition argues that the over ingestion of fluoride is causing other systemic health problems and he has not been able to find research that substantiates that. He noted that the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics support the fluoridation of water. He stressed that the overmedicating of many medications can cause health problems and that it is important to follow the standards. In addition, he stated that Council needs to come to a decision soon because there is a capital project in place for the Water Department which should not proceed until this is decided.

Ms. Addison told Council that the project has been started.

Council Member Smith recommended setting a date to determine whether to continue with the fluoridation of water.

Baseball

Mayor Graham mentioned that there are multiple entities requesting the use of the baseball stadium next year.

Ms. Addison told Council that the Watertown Rams (formerly the Watertown Wizards) are anxious to resign the contract as it is and then negotiate changes later. She also indicated that Ms. Gardner has been contacted by a minor league baseball team and a collegiate baseball team expressing interest. She would like to accept proposals from all three teams to see what there requirements are.

South Massey Street

Council Member Butler advised that the bridge on the edge of the City on South Massey is an obstruction to many tractor trailers traveling that route and he would like to see better signage

advising the height limit of the bridge prior to the intersection of Ives Street and South Massey Street.

Parks and Recreation Webtrac Software

Council Member Smith asked if a message could be added to the telephone answering service directing customers to the website for scheduling and reservations.

Thompson Park Pavilion

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer gave an update on the status of this design and indicated that the cost might be slightly higher than the similar pavilion located in J.B. Wise parking lot. He said the next step would be to solidify the design and estimate in order to present it to Council and the Zoo Board.

Mayor Graham stated that he does not want a situation in which Council votes on the spending of money but the design is decided by the Zoo Board. He reminded Council that the design should ultimately be approved by the Council and that the Zoo Board's input has already been considered. He asked Mr. Hauk to finalize the plans and bring them to the City Manager and Council.

Council Member Butler noted that the design is important to the Zoo Board and since the building will be there a long time and heavily used, more input is better. He indicated that this is a partnership and that he would be more comfortable if the Zoo Board signed off on the design.

Mayor Graham commented that this has been going back and forth for three years and he thought that we had received all their input.

Council Member Burns stated that Council should be the first body to see the plans because Council is ultimately responsible for appropriating money for building this project. She does not want this to get bogged down with minor details.

Mr. Hauk said that there will be a bid for the base building and an alternative bid for the roofing. He mentioned that there are some items in which input is needed in order to get to the finished product.

Maple Court Apartments

Ms. Addison stated that there is a new developer interested in the Maple Court Apartments and he is preparing an application for a tax credit in which he is soliciting Council's support.

Mr. Mix confirmed that the prior developers are no longer involved with this property.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Ms. Addison provided an update to Council and stated that there will be a presentation in the near future.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:48 p.m. by motion of Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk